



Position Description: Wildlife Care & Education Intern

Status: Unpaid

Reports to: Intern Coordinator/Education and Outreach Director

Date Created: 10/21/2021

POSITION PURPOSE

Under the supervision of the Intern Coordinator and the Education and Outreach Director, the Wildlife & Education Intern (WCEI) is charged with providing daily supportive and rehabilitative care to injured and orphaned wildlife during the first portion of their internship and supporting the work of the Education & Outreach department during the second portion of their internship. The WCEI will work alongside volunteers, apprentices, and staff to support the organization as a whole and serve the Center for Wildlife's mission to sustain local wildlife.

Center for Wildlife's internships offer practical and experiential learning opportunities in a large rehabilitation clinic and an environmental education program. Some of the skills learned include species identification, husbandry and handling techniques, species specific diet preparation and formulas, species habitat set-up, cage maintenance, assistance with medical exams, and hand feeding of young mammals, birds, and debilitated wildlife; on the education side, there will be opportunities to learn about the care and training of ambassador animals, and interpretative programming. Professional development training includes time management through prioritizing daily tasks and working on short-term projects simultaneously. Further educational opportunities will be offered through in-house workshops taught by Wildlife Specialists and Veterinarians.

The WCEI is expected to take initiative in seeking out additional opportunities and capitalizing on learning opportunities through carrying out daily tasks.

I. ESSENTIAL POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Animal Care

95%

1. Patient Care

Participates in daily clinic operations under the supervision of the Medical Clinic Staff, specifically:

- a. Day to day care of medical clinic patients, including feedings, and cleaning.
- b. Care and feeding of baby mammals and songbirds of over 100 species.
- c. Providing natural browse and habitat set-up for patients in care.
- d. Preparing species specific diets for wildlife.
- e. Maintaining a safe and healing environment for patients.
- f. Performing proper handling and restraint techniques.
- g. Attending workshops led by staff to learn more about the field of conservation medicine.
- h. Cleaning and helping to maintain outdoor cages and grounds.

2. Patient Assessment and Oversight

Collaborates with Wildlife Specialists to help with:

- a. Monitoring of current patients and alerting Wildlife Specialists in changes in health status or behavior.
- b. Providing appropriate husbandry, nutrition, and enrichment to promote healing.
- c. Assisting with assessments of current patients for release.
- d. Transporting animals off-site for release or transfer.

B. Environmental Education Intern (6 weeks)

1. Ambassador Care

Participates in daily education operations under the supervision of the Education Staff, specifically:

- a. Day to day care of ambassadors, including feedings, and cleaning.
- b. Providing natural browse and habitat set-up for ambassadors.
- c. Providing enrichment for ambassador animals.
- d. Preparing species specific diets for wildlife.
- e. Maintaining a safe environment for ambassadors.
- f. Performing proper handling and restraint techniques.
- g. Cleaning and helping to maintain outdoor cages and grounds.

2. Education Programs Support

- a. Shadowing and support on off-site educational programs.
- b. Serving as a docent for nature center and outdoor ambassador enclosures.

C. Organization-Wide Support, Duties, and Expectations

5%

1. Ensures completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of all duties.
2. Operates as part of the CFW team, and maintains and supports a positive work culture.
3. Establishes rapport with a diverse range of staff, apprentices, and volunteers.
4. Maintains dignity and self-control in difficult situations.
5. All other duties as required.

C. QUALIFICATIONS

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skills, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions:

1. Ability to learn and retain basic knowledge of native species and their natural histories.
2. Physical fitness to work on feet for 8-10 hours (with breaks), lift up to 30 pounds unassisted.
3. Superior interpersonal and communication skills.
4. Willingness to learn, perform daily tasks, and assist staff while promoting a positive work culture.
5. Strong organizational skills for coordinating multiple functions and planning.
6. Able to work efficiently and thoroughly under stress.
7. Able to maintain confidential information.

D. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

1. Interpret technical procedures or regulations.
2. Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from staff, volunteers, and apprentices.
3. Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions.
4. Ability to be flexible and work as a team to accomplish tasks.

E. WORKING CONDITIONS Extended work hours are periodically required. Work is subject to inflexible deadlines. The intent of this position description is to provide a representative summary of the major duties and responsibilities performed by incumbents of this job. Incumbents may be requested to perform job-related tasks other than those specifically presented.

F. EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Recommended associates degree or certification from a college or university, or currently attending to obtain a degree, in the fields of wildlife ecology, biology, zoology, veterinary technology or pre-vet preferred. Previous experience in the field is preferred but not required. Previous work experience preferred.

II. Compensation and Benefits

1. Time off is to be approved by supervisor a **minimum two weeks** in advance and interns are required to find coverage for shifts.
2. Access to resources and experiential learning opportunities including CFW's library, memberships, database subscriptions, and in-house workshops and training.
3. 1:1 WRA mentor to assist with questions and help with the intern project.
4. This internship is unpaid.